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Corewell Health opens substance use treatment, education center

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

COMMUNITY REPORT

ST. JOSEPH — Corewell Health has announced the opening of a new substance use treatment and education center in Berrien County.

The Niles location, 42 N. St. Joseph Ave., is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon Friday. To schedule an appointment, call (269) 687-1126. Walk-ins are welcome during business hours.

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Berrien County ranks 17th out of Michigan's 83 counties in vulnerability to substance use. Offering services in Benton Harbor and Niles, the goal of this new center is to provide equitable, compassionate and comprehensive addiction care to the community with empathy and understanding.

"Increasing access to substance use treatment and recovery services is incredibly important for Southwest Michigan," said Melinda Gruber, vice president for medical groups and rehabilitation at Corewell Health South. "By improving access, reducing barriers and promoting life-saving treatment options, we are committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need."

Available by appointment or walk-in, Corewell Health offers assessment and treatment planning, medications for substance use disorders, counseling, care coordination, referrals, and harm reduction services.

Buchanan City Commissioners bring back DDA

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — Buchanan City Commissioners have taken the final step to bring back the Downtown Development Authority to help promote economic development in the downtown area. The DDA was disbanded in 2020 amid controversy between members and city officials.

Monday, commissioners adopted an ordinance amendment to re-establish the DDA after a second reading that brings the city ordinance in line with 2018 state law changes on how DDAs should operate. Commissioners had directed city staff last fall to bring back the DDA.

While little comment was made at Monday's meeting on the re-establishment of the DDA, Mayor Mark Weedon noted that he and City Manager Tony McGhee are in the process of interviewing prospective DDA members. The goal is to have the DDA members in place so they can hold their first meeting in June.

"We've been going through the applications and did interviews last Friday," Weedon said. "People should be proud of the applicants and why they want to be on the DDA. We still have a couple of interviews left to do and we will announce the new members at the May 27 meeting."

He noted that the DDA won't be starting from scratch as the funds from the former DDA will still be available for DDA projects. "It's exciting, they will be ready to start working when the downtown infrastructure project is done," he said.

McGhee had reported previously that the DDA will also be able to once again capture funds from tax increment financing starting this summer.

City Clerk Kalla Langston-Weiss said after the meeting that 14 people applied to be on the DDA. The commission will appoint seven people to serve on the new board along with the mayor and a representative of the Buchanan Area Chamber of Commerce.

In other economic development news, city commissioners expressed gratitude Monday that the city will be getting a $1 million placemaking grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The city commission applied for the grant from the MEDC'S Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Program in late January and learned last week about the grant award. A total of $25 million was awarded to communities around the state this year.

"I really hope people realize how important it was for the city to get the $1 million grant," Weedon said. "We were $1.5 million short on the infrastructure project and the state saw that project was important to the city."

Commissioners Raquell George and Patrick Swem also thanked city staff for working to get the grant.

"I want to thank the staff and Tony for their dedication and hard work in getting the RAP grant," George said. "There were 81 applications and 21 were awarded. It shows the substantial leadership we have in Buchanan."

See DDA, Page A8

IMMACULATE CONNECTION

Niles students baptized by new Pope during 2014 visit

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Before he became Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Robert Prevost's journey to the papacy led him through the City of Niles.

A metro Chicago native, the first American Pope attended high school in Allegan County at a minor seminary run by the Augustinians – now defunct – and he has also celebrated Mass at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edwardsburg and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Niles in March 2014.

"We pledge our prayers in support of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, in communion with him and with all who look to the Successor of Saint Peter, the Vicar of Christ, as the visible head of the pilgrim Church on earth," said Diocese of Kalamazoo Bishop Edward Lohse.

See POPE, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
From left: Deacon Roger Gregorski, Stuart, Sawyer and Samuel Lundberg, Robert Prevost (now Pope Leo XIV) at St. Mary of the Immaculate in March 2014.

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SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Niles City Administrator Nic Huff (far left) and Niles History Center Director Christina Arseneau attended the State Historic Preservation Office's historic Preservation event last week in Lansing.

Niles preservation projects get statewide recognition

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Governor Gretchen Whitmer is recognizing historic preservation projects across the state, including two in the City of Niles.

Whitmer announced May 8 that both the Chapin Mansion Restoration and the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Project were among seven Michigan preservation projects awarded Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation during a ceremony hosted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

"It's an honor to celebrate the 2025 Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation," said Governor Whitmer. "These awardees are helping us build a stronger Michigan by preserving the places and stories that define who we are. Their work honors our shared past while creating vibrant spaces where people want to live, work, and invest. Historic preservation is key to our 'Make it in Michigan' strategy of supporting jobs, growing local businesses, and fostering pride across our communities."

Now in its 22nd year, the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation program, held annually during

See PROJECTS, Page A8

OBITUARIES

Jacki Ortmann
Sammy D.G. Teeter
Florencia Ernestina Tudor
Julia Catherine Summerfield
Birlean Jackson
Gail Vallieres
Larry Joseph Aldridge
Lonnie Lee Herman
David Kelly
Kaye Berta
Donald T. Morrison
Jeffery Owen Wright
Kathyrn Louise Theobald-Brubaker
Dalton Prentice
Edward Virgil
Elaine Leidy

A6

SMC breaks ground on Zollar expansion

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Thank God for the new Pope. Finally something for Americans to be proud about.

Since taking office, Trump and his First Grifter Family has netted 2.9 billion dollars in crypto money. He also has a sweet jet coming from Qatar.

One could easily say that bribery is afoot as the President is negotiating trade deals with Vietnam and Dubai while simultaneously in the planning stages of building resorts in those same countries.

Billionaires and politicians really made out with the insider information about the tariff talks and contractor deals. Marjorie cashed in with Palantir stock just days before announcing their US agreement with ICE.

God bless our new Pope. I hope his guidance will help strengthen our love for each other and put an end to these completely senseless wars.

If your business is hiring or in search of interns, please post it publicly. There are lots of graduating seniors looking for longterm careers and summer jobs.

Don't take this warm weather for granted. Get out and move around. Walking is about the healthiest thing you can do for mind, spirit and body.

Support your local restaurants and stores in our community. Amazon is not local.

I think people need to give our President a chance to do his job. Our national debt is out of control and we can no longer sustain the heavy spending.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	60% Chance Rain Showers	70% Chance Rain Showers	40% Chance of Rain
64° 51°	66° 45°	69° 45°	66° 51°	60° 50°	62° 49°

THE SEARCH IS ON

SMC announces presidential search committee

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Less than a week after Southwestern Michigan College's eighth president, Dr. Joseph Odenwald, left office to assume the same role at Alma College, the college is publicly launching a search for its next leader.

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 14, SMC's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the creation of an ad-hoc search committee to hire a permanent president.

Chairman Tom Jerdon proposed the five-member panel consisting of himself, Vice Chairman Tracy Hertsel and Trustee Dr. Elaine Foster, as well as former faculty association president Professor Dr. Jeff Dennis and SMC Foundation Vice Chairman Tom Ellspermann, a two-time cross country national champion and retired Whirlpool executive.

"That blend of higher ed experience, K-12 experience and business experience makes for a robust ad hoc committee," Jerdon said. "We would look to advertise for a three-week period this summer. Finalist interviews with the Board of Trustees would be conducted at a public meeting for transparency."

Jerdon said the search for Odenwald's successor was able to move forward now that Nicole Lehman has been promoted to Director of Human Resources and Dr. Jeff Freels has been hired as the college's first Chief Assurance Officer effective June 16. He said the CAO will serve as architect for a culture of academic quality, access, success and efficiency.

"The ad hoc committee will work with the HR Department to post advertisements and to receive applications with an external search," Jerdon said, "probably conduct a first round of interviews and suggest a group of finalists for the Board of Trustees to interview face to face in the fall. This would probably occur in October or November."

Prior to the announcement, community members called on the board to conduct a nationwide search to find the next Southwestern Michigan College president during the public comment portion of the meeting and were opposed to hiring Interim President Brent Brewer as the new president, citing concerns regarding Brewer's qualifications.

Brewer, who is also the college's Chief Strategy Officer, has worked for over 16 years at the college. He earned an Associate in Arts from SMC, then a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management and a Master of Business Administration from Bethel University in Mishawaka, Indiana.

See SEARCH, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Chairman Tom Jerdon (pictured) and the SMC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the creation of an ad-hoc search committee to hire a permanent president.

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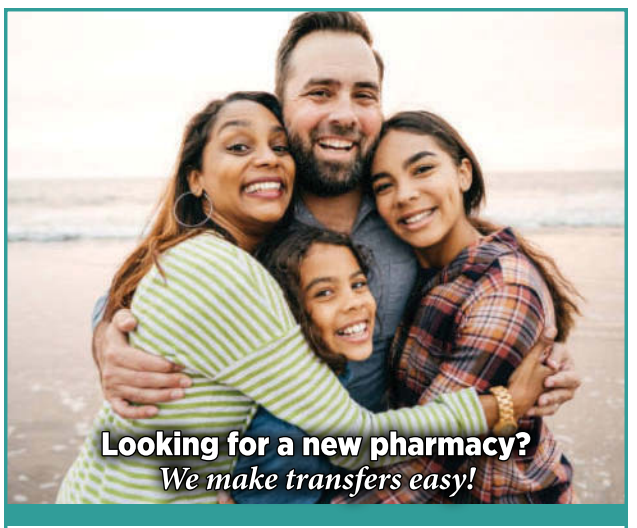

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Brandywine school board approves personal finance course

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

He said the goal of the new course is to expose students to everything from budgeting and financial goal setting to interview and resume skills.

NILES CHARTER TOWNSHIP — Brandywine Board of Education members approved a new course and new graduation requirement for high school seniors at their meeting Monday night.

Board members had discussed the new personal finance course and the accompanying graduation requirement at their meeting in late April. With Monday's actions, the new course will be available to seniors in the 2025-26 school year and the requirement will go into place then as well.

Middle/High School Principal Evan Winkler spoke about the proposal at the April 28 meeting. He said the idea came after a staff member attended a conference where people talked about the importance of students learning about personal finance and having a course dedicated to that subject.

Winkler noted that the high school had previously met the state requirement that students are exposed to personal finance information by incorporating that information into existing courses. He said the goal of the new course is to expose students to everything from budgeting and financial goal setting to interview and resume skills.

Monday, board trustee Michelanne McCombs said she initially had concerns about requiring this new course but has concluded that it will give students the tools and guidance they need as they go out into the world.

Superintendent Travis Walker said the high school had previously inserted the required financial literacy information into existing classes. "The state requires students to take a financial literacy course and this would be saying that this is the financial literacy course," he said.

Also Monday, board members heard a report from School Resource Officer Amber McGaffigan and high school students about the efforts to create safer routes to the district's schools. The students have met all year to discuss school traffic safety issues in a campaign called "Strive 4 A Safer Drive."

McGaffigan said the goal is to apply for a $900,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School/Michigan Fitness program. If received, the funds would be used to pay for lighting and sidewalk improvements around Brandywine Elementary School, Brandywine Middle/Senior High School and Merritt Elementary School.

She and students talked about the grant process and what they've done so far. Those steps have included sending out surveys to students, staff and parents, collecting data about where students live in relation to the three schools and how many walk to school, ride the bus, drive themselves or are dropped off by parents.

The students also showed board members the video they have made about their activities this year. As they showed in the video, they have made presentations to students and community members and worked to educate everyone about traffic safety. They made one of the presentations in February to the Niles Township Board of Trustees.

In other action at Monday's board meeting, members appointed fall athletic coaches, approved resolutions for Berrien RESA on their annual budget and biennial board member election, voted on spring policy updates and approved an overnight wrestling trip to Adrian College in early June.

Walker reported that school offices will be closed on May 26 for Memorial Day and also announced summer office hours. The middle/high school office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday with Brandywine Elementary and Merritt Elementary having similar hours.

Normal business hours should resume at all schools in early August after the summer construction work is completed.

Items to be acted on at the May 27 meeting will include setting the out of state tuition rate and approving a payroll collaborative with Bridgman schools. The proposal is to set the out of state tuition rate at state foundation grant level which is now $9,608.

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Local entertainer to perform free children's concert May 24

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A local entertainer is gearing up for a performance the entire family can enjoy.

Brian Lee Butler will be taking the Riverfront Park Amphitheater stage as Maurice the Singing, Dancing Moose from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 24.

Produced by Agape Entertainment Group, the free event will feature music from Butler as well as food vendors and magician/balloon artist Kevin Long.

Brian Lee Butler's music career started in the first grade at Warren Elementary School in South Bend, Indiana when he became an Elvis Presley fan. At the age of 15, he began playing guitar and at 17 was playing in bands and performing Elvis' music. This led him to touring throughout several states before moving back to Indiana in 1995, where he went to work at Channel 46's "Kid's Adventure Zone" with Captain Ed Friend of the South Bend Police Department. He performed on the show as "Maurice, The Singing and Dancing Moose" on live TV with a studio audience of 80 to 90 kids.

When the show ended, he continued performing at private par-ties as Maurice for about a year before eventually going back to performing as an Elvis Tribute Artist.

Earlier this year, Brian met with Larry Kilcoyne, agent and promoter of Agape Entertainment Group, about bringing Maurice back for a new generation of children.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Brian Lee Butler as Maurice the Singing, Dancing Moose.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Binx is a one-year-old with Paws of Hope. He is described by volunteers as a sweet, playful kitten with a heart full of curiosity. He enjoys chasing toys and exploring. Whether pouncing on a toy or cuddling, he'll brighten any home with charm and affection. Binx is in foster care with dogs and cats. He is neutered and current on shots. Contact Paws of Hope at information@pawsofhope.org.

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Niles City Council approves 2025 Memorial Day Parade

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Floats, vehicles and more will parade down Main Street next month in honor of the men and women who had given their lives in service to the country.

The Memorial Day Parade, hosted by the American Legion Larue Messenger Post 26, had its permit application approved 7-1 by the Niles City Council on Monday. Councilmember Michael Thompson was the dissenting voter.

The proposed route is N. Second St. to north on Sycamore St., south on 3rd St., then east on Main St. to Oak, east on Oak to East Main, and south on East Main to Silverbrook Cemetery. Staging will begin on Second St. at approximately 8 a.m. with the event beginning at approximately 11 a.m.

The city street department will provide barricades and the police department will provide police support along detour routes and where street closures occur. The total approximate cost is $835. Thompson voted against the parade request because he does not believe the city should contribute funds toward events.

In other business, the council approved listing agreements with Southwest Real Estate for the sale of property at 440 Pucker St and two adjacent parcels of land .

The city acquired 440 Pucker Street and adjacent vacant properties in 2021 to facilitate the Pucker Street Dam removal project. With the project's completion, there is no longer a need to retain the properties. Southwest Real Estate was chosen as the listing broker since their commission is competitive and they also hold in person and on-line auctions should the listing not produce a viable offer. The initial listing for 440 Pucker Street will be for $450,000 with the vacant 21.2 acres and vacant 15 acres listed for $11,000 per acre.

In further business, council:

•Adopted a resolution authorizing Finance Director Kenneth Elkins to open accounts and initiate financial transactions on behalf of the City of Niles.

•Approved the quote from SHI International Corp. of Somerset, New Jersey for a three year contract for computer security software in the amount of $108,146.88, to be paid in three annual payments and charged equally to the General Fund and Utility Department budgets.

Niles man gets 15-45 years for child abuse

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — Four area residents were sentenced to prison Monday in Berrien County Trial Court sentencings at the Niles courthouse.

The longest sentence, of 15 years in prison, was handed down by Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein to Daniel Jay Pickens for first-degree child abuse.

Pickens

Carroll

Pickens, 26, of Niles, pleaded guilty to the child abuse charge and was sentenced to 15 years to 45 years in prison. He has credit for 56 days already served and must pay $258 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Dec. 8, 2024 in Niles. According to statements made in court Monday, Pickens threw his three-month-old daughter on the ground.

The victim's mother spoke before sentencing. She asked that Pickens receive the maximum sentence possible for his actions. She said that her daughter has sustained injuries that could affect her for the rest of her life.

Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky said that Pickens failed in his most important duty as a father, to protect his child from danger. "Our role is not to become frustrated when a baby cries," he said.

"This was horrendous, horrible and unspeakable," he added. "Her life has changed forever. No sentence he gets here will be long enough. This was one step short of the next charge which would be murder … It is my belief that he never should have contact with kids again. His actions were brutal and unspeakable."

Defense attorney Carri Briseno said Pickens has always taken responsibility of his actions and agreed to plead guilty rather than go to trial. "He is prepared to accept whatever outcome he gets," she said. "He wants his family and his daughter to know that this is something he will never forgive himself for. He has a lot of remorse for his actions."

Pickens apologized for his actions. "I'm sorry, I take responsibility for my actions," he said. "I regret what I did, I wish I could take it back."

Judge Hosbein noted that the baby's treatment at the Mott's Children Hospital saved the little girl's life. "Nothing I can do today can help you heal or make you whole," he told the baby's mother. "I'm truly sorry for what your little girl is going through."

He said that the term "shaken baby syndrome" is a misnomer as the baby was grievously abused and thrown to the ground. He likened the baby's injuries to what she would have gotten if she had been in a car accident without a seatbelt. He noted that legislators have proposed laws that would require child abusers to be registered like sex offenders.

Michael Duane Carroll, 38, pleaded guilty to third offense drunk driving and was sentenced to 24 months to five years in prison. He has credit for 149 days already served and must pay $1,618 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred in December, 2024 on U.S. 12. His blood alcohol level was found to be .203, more that twice the legal limit. This was his seventh drunk driving related conviction. He also faces other charges in Indiana.

Assistant Prosecutor Myrene Koch noted that Carroll tried to force his passenger to shift seats in the car to avoid taking responsibility for driving drunk.

Defense attorney Daniel French said that Carroll regrets his actions and blames much of his problems on mental health issues, childhood trauma and an attack by his father earlier last year. He said Carroll had been a into mental health court. Carroll said he had turned to substance abuse after what he suffered at the hands of his father and is seeking help.

Judge Hosbein said that while he recognized Carroll's mental health issues, he also had to take the community's safety into consideration. "The problem I have is that this is your seventh drunk driving conviction," he said. "You put the community in extreme danger."

Troy Anthony Coon, 45, of Nashville, Tennesee, pleaded guilty to attempted safebreaking and receiving, concealing or possession of stolen property $1,000 to $20,000 was sentenced to two concurrent terms of 12 months to five years in prison, credit for 69 days served and $326 in fines and costs. Restitution will be determined at a later date.

Coon

The incident occurred Aug. 4, 2023 in Niles Township.

"I made a huge mistake, I violated the trust of my family and I broke the law," Coon said. "I'm trying to do the right thing. I understand there will be some consequences. I'm sorry."

Judge Hosbein noted that the plea deal in the case had reduced the guidelines from what could have been life offenses. "You will still serve prison time, but because of your remorse and the surrounding

See ABUSE, Page A8

Abi Marquis speaks during SMC's May 10 commencement ceremony.

SMC's 58th Commencement Graduates 365

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Jake Smith speaks during SMC's May 10 commencement ceremony.

DOWAGIAC — A future teacher who honed perseverance as a volleyball player and an adult business student with his head in the clouds spoke on behalf of Southwestern Michigan College's Class of 2025 Saturday, May 10 at 58th Commencement ceremonies outdoors in Alumni Plaza on the Dowagiac campus.

Abi Marquis of St. Joseph, who will continue her volleyball career for the Bethel University Pilots in Mishawaka, addressed the School of Arts and Sciences Saturday morning, while Jake Smith of New Buffalo spoke to the Schools of Business, Advanced Technology and Nursing and Health Services Saturday afternoon.

"Acts of perseverance aren't necessarily flashy or loud," Marquis said. "They present themselves when you're struggling to do something that's the bare minimum, like when I had to drive myself to clinical hours for teaching after a horrible night of sleep, devoting myself to hours with energetic kids when I could have fallen asleep, taking myself to class when I was exhausted or days when it seemed like every single thing was going wrong and I just wanted to curl up in my bed. You tell yourself, 'These are my jobs, these are my commitments' and make yourself keep moving forward.

"Acts of perseverance don't get celebrated because you're doing what's expected of you. What matters is that when things got tough, every graduate here kept going. We powered through obstacles. We rose after challenges and setbacks," Marquis said.

"Good examples are often vital to someone's success," she said. "My mom is a single parent who worked her absolute hardest to provide for me. She worked long hours at a stressful job, rushed home and, for six years, drove me to travel volleyball practices — an hour there and back. She handled her exhaustion and my sometimes grumpy attitude with grace."

Her grandmother gave Marquis another "powerful example, one of the kindest, most selfless people you'll ever meet. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2011 and given six months to live." But she never quit fighting and 14 years later cheered Abi on from the front row.

Marquis belonged to the SMC Honors Program and graduated with an associate degree in elementary education.

"Perseverance is a super power," Marquis said. "Every person will follow their own unique path after this ceremony is over. Whatever next chapter you walk into will have its challenges. Struggle and sadness help you appreciate success. Perseverance is often the difference between those who dream and those who achieve."

"Abi has been the epitome of who best represents SMC and she will be what we desperately need in the field of education," said Ranee Conley, who directs the early childhood and elementary education program.

"This is a momentous day for every graduate here," Smith said. "We are now college graduates. Take in this moment. You are triumphant, resilient and resourceful. You deserve this moment after many late nights, early mornings, long commutes and long shifts and juggling life's responsibilities while still having to show up academically. Here we are, stronger, wiser and walking across this stage because we refused to give up. I've changed during my time here. This has been a journey of growth

See GRADUATES, Page A7

Niles Daily Star

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COMICS & PUZZLES

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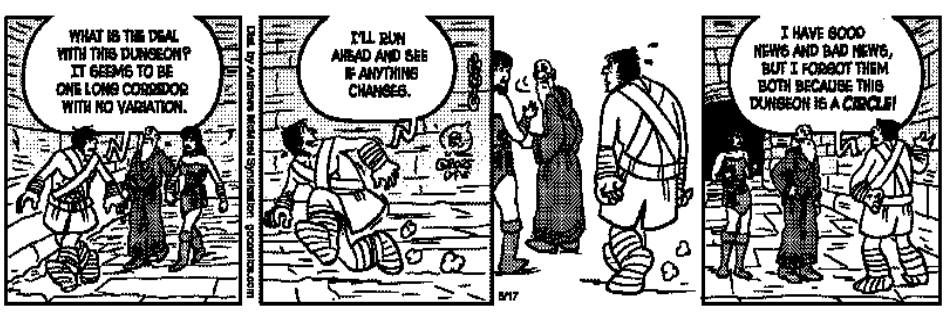
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

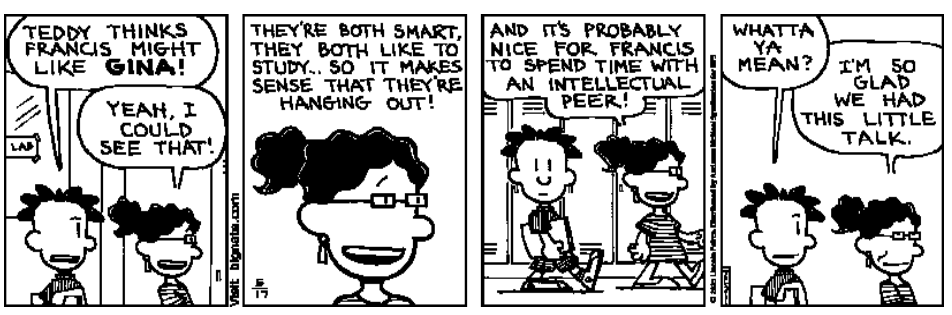
ALLEY OOP


WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH THIS DUNGEON? IT SEEMS TO BE ONE LONG CORRIDOR WITH NO VARIATION.
I'LL RUN AHEAD AND SEE IF ANYTHING CHANGES.
I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS, BUT I FORGOT THEM BOTH BECAUSE THIS DUNGEON IS A CIRCLE!

ARLO & JANIS

I SUPPOSE THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE THESE DAYS, ISN'T THERE, MEG?
I'LL SAY!
AND ARE YOU HAPPY WITH IT ALL?
OH, YES!
A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER! A NEW HOUSE! A BIG ROOM! GREAT NEW NEIGHBORS!
IF YOU COULD BOTTLE AND SELL YOUR ATTITUDE, MEG, I'D BUY IT!
IF YOU REALLY WANT IT, IT'S FREE!

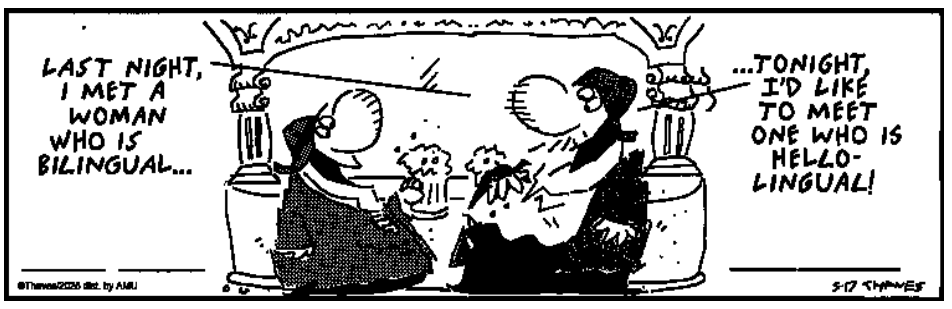
BIG NATE


TEDDY THINKS FRANCIS MIGHT LIKE GINA!
YEAH, I COULD SEE THAT!
THEY'RE BOTH SMART, THEY BOTH LIKE TO STUDY.. SO IT MAKES SENSE THAT THEY'RE HANGING OUT!
AND IT'S PROBABLY NICE FOR FRANCIS TO SPEND TIME WITH AN INTELLECTUAL PEER!
WHATTA YA MEAN?
I'M SO GLAD WE HAD THIS LITTLE TALK.

BORN LOSER

WE PLAYED AN INTRASQUAD GAME AND I THREW A NO-HITTER.
WOW! HOW MANY RUNS DID YOU WIN BY?
WE DIDN'T WIN.
BUT YOU DIDN'T GIVE UP A HIT.
I WALKED EVERY HITTER I FACED.

FRANK & ERNEST



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SODOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

6				4				7
	2						3	
	3		2	8		4		9
	9			7				
		6	9	3	5	2		
				6			9	
4		3		1	6		5	
	6						7	
2				5				6

MODERATELY CONFUSED

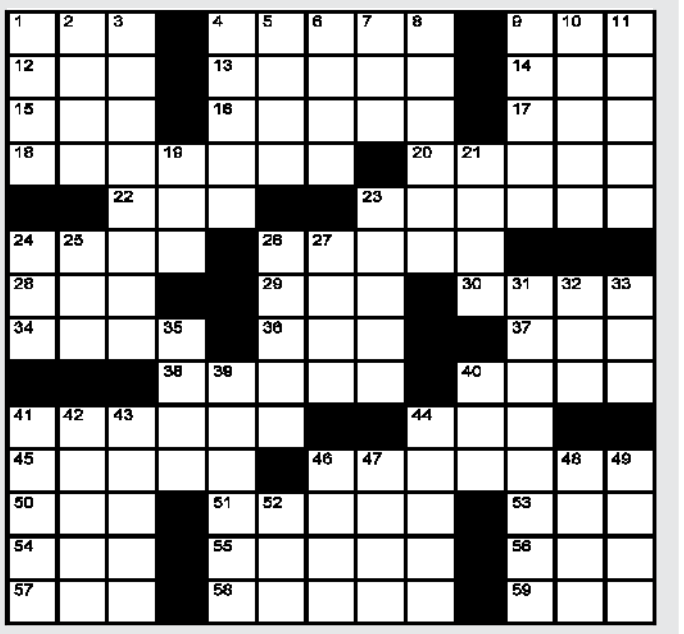
REALITY CHECK

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Coaster
4 Rock that readily splits
9 Animal friend
12 — Jima
13 "— — is an island"
14 Ordinance
15 Spain's Costa del —
16 Bumbling
17 "Roses — red ..."
18 Slim
20 Pertaining to sheep
22 Actress — McClanahan
23 Among
24 Troublesome bug
26 Cajun specialty
28 Ballpoint
29 Sphere
30 Mascara target
34 Becomes more solid
36 Nothing at all
37 — & Perrins sauces
38 "We hold — truths ..."
40 Minuscule
41 Look
44 Farm denizen
45 Gusts
46 Brought comfort to
50 "Rumor — it"
51 Bellow
53 Chinese "way"
54 Indivisible
55 Rental agreement
56 Curved letter
57 Blushing
58 Kick out
59 Coloring matter

DOWN
1 "— Congeniality"
2 MP's quarry
3 Broad-minded
4 Nasty
5 Sharpen
6 From the U.S.
7 Once around a track
8 Bury
9 Fabric pattern
10 Makes, as money
11 Bird call
19 Fanatic
21 Stringed instrument
23 Go at a leisurely pace
24 Family docs
25 Born (Fr.)
26 Dead duck
27 "Exodus" author
31 Dismounted
32 Upperclassman (Abbr.)
33 Animal fodder
35 Cook in water
39 Bother
40 Child
41 Detest
42 Jetliner
43 Sat for a painter
44 "Heartbreak —"
46 Washday need
47 River in England
48 "— does it"
49 Prescribed amount
52 Spell

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



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BREVITY

HEART OF THE CITY

DEATH NOTICES

Jacki Ortmann, 76, of Niles passed May 5, 2025. Funeral services May 13, 2025 at 11am at Brown Funeral Home, visitation Monday 5-7pm. Arrangements by Brown Funeral Home. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Sammy D.G. Teeter, 83, passed away on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Florencia Ernestina Tudor, 75, of Cassopolis, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Julia Catherine Summerfield, 74, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Friday, May 9th, 2025, in St. Joseph, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Birlean Jackson, 80, of Benton Harbor, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Niles, Michigan.

Gail Vallieres, 87, passed away on Monday, May 12, 2025 in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Allred Funeral Home.

Larry Joseph Aldridge, 81, passed away on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in South Bend, Indiana. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Lonnie Lee Herman, 85, passed away on Monday, May 12, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES

David Kelly

November 11, 1944 - May 5, 2025

David Bruce Kelly, age 80 years of Niles, Michigan; husband, father, grandfather, devout Christian, sports enthusiast, and "Captain Rite Aid" died peacefully on Monday morning, May 5, 2025 at Corewell Health Lakeland Niles hospital following a brief illness. His family is grateful for the kind and compassionate care provided by the staff at West Woods of Niles, and Pawating Hospital, especially Dr. Claudine Curioso-Hughes.

He was born on November 11, 1944 in Goshen, Indiana to Walter L. and Marvel L. (Marks) Kelly, moving as a young child with his family to Niles. He graduated with the Class of 1962 of Niles High School, and continued his education at Southwestern Michigan College, from which he earned an Associates Degree in Business Management. He was first employed at the former Niles plant of Simplicity Pattern Company, in the Bookbinding department where he achieved the Journeyman qualification. When Simplicity closed, he was briefly employed at Niles Printing, before beginning a new career at the former Perry Drugs, and its successor, the former Niles store of Rite Aid. Whether he was stocking shelves, taking inventory, or running the cash register, David greeted and chatted with nearly every client and customer who came in the door for thirty years prior to his retirement in 2021.

David was a member of the Community Evangelical Free Church in Niles for 38 years, where he also served as an usher, and when younger served as an adult youth leader. He was raised in the former Grace Evangelical United Brethren church in Niles (later Grace United Methodist, and now a part of New Journey United Methodist), which - as a child - he watched the "new" stone building being constructed at the corner of Grant and Lincoln. He had also been a member of the former Fulkerson Park Baptist Church (now Redeemer Church) in Niles.

As a young man, David was an accomplished Fastpitch Softball pitcher, playing in a regional league, and often played basketball at "the Y". He enjoyed fast cars - which he might have driven fast - owning successively a 1965 Ford Mustang, a 1968 Chevrolet Camaro, and a 1972 Chevrolet Chevelle. In more recent years, he enjoyed target shooting with a polished chrome western revolver, and feeding the birds in the backyard. He was always active, and kept a schedule of tasks to accomplish, which included having peanut butter cookies fresh out of the oven when his children came home from school. His family was his greatest joy.

Perhaps one of those fast cars convinced Simplicity co-worker Doris to go for a ride with David. On June 27, 1970 at Fulkerson Church, he was married to the former Doris L. Holik, with whom he celebrated last year the remarkable Fifty-fourth anniversary of their wedding. They were sadly preceded in death by a grandson, Josiah David Kelly in 2016, and by David's parents, Walt and Marvel Kelly.

Surviving family includes his wife, Doris Kelly, and their children, Jeremy (& Alexandria) Kelly of Omaha, Nebraska and Susana Kelly of Niles; grandchildren, Savannah Glenn-Phillips and Nathaniel Kelly; and David's brother, Larry W (& Marcie) Kelly of Stevensville, Michigan, and a cousin, Melanie (& Bruce) Spychalski of Petoskey, Michigan.

Services for David Kelly will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Community Evangelical Free Church, 120 East Bertrand Road in Niles, with Pastor Bradley J. Clear of the church officiating. Committal will be private, at a later date, at Silverbrook Cemetery in Niles. Arrangements were completed at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles. Online condolences may be left at:

www.halbritterwickens.com

Eighty years is a wonderfully long life, and David enjoyed all of it. He was fascinated by everything, and could carry a conversation with old friends as well as "just-met" friends about their interests. He was amused by small details such as the redundant "11 11" of his birthdate, and would be pleased to match that with his deathdate of "05 05". Above all, he loved his wife, his grandchildren, and his children; fulfilling the Biblical command to Love God and Love people.

Enjoy a lunch & a show in 2025!
5-21 - Nunsense
9-18 - Heartbreak Hotel
11-19 - The Naughty List
Join us on a group trip.
7-9 - Soaring Eagle Casino
7-19 - Chicago Cubs
FireKeepers Casino
June 11; Aug. 13; Sept. 10; Oct. 8; Nov.12
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Kaye Berta

February 9, 1938 - May 7, 2025

Kaye Eleanor Berta, age 87, passed away peacefully in her home on May 7, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. Born on February 9, 1938, in Dowagiac, Michigan, to Archie and Anne (Schram) Gard, Kaye lived a life marked by devotion to God and her family.

Kaye was the beloved wife of Donald Berta, who cherished her deeply. On September 20, 1958, she married her soulmate, and together they shared 67 years of love. Kaye and Don enjoyed camping across the country and spending many happy summers at their lake cottage. Kaye's favorite place to be was anywhere with Don by her side. It didn't matter what they were doing—what mattered was that they were together.

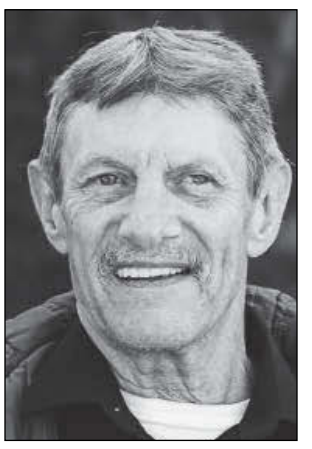
Kaye was a devoted mother to her daughter, Lisa (Mitchell) Milliner of Osceola, and her son, Michael Berta of Granger. She cherished her role as a grandmother and found immense joy in the company of her six grandchildren: Christopher Milliner, Alli (Brett) Rayner, Carly (Charles) Oakley, Tori Milliner, Maddy Berta, and Adam Berta, along with her nine beautiful great-grandchildren.

Kaye was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Sue (Gard) Janke, and her brother, Durwood Gard. She is lovingly remembered by her sister-in-law, Gabriella, whose deep friendship brought her much joy. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, all of whom hold a special place in her heart.

Kaye and her husband, Don, were faithful members of Little Flower Church and longtime members of the Elk's Lodge, where they spent many nights dancing alongside family and friends. She enjoyed antiquing with her sister, Sue, and their summer camping trips to Lake Michigan with their children. Kaye also enjoyed lunching with her friends and truly valued these friendships, some lasting over 67 years. She will be remembered for her loving heart, generous spirit, and the many lives she touched with her kindness and grace.

A funeral service to celebrate the life of Kaye Berta will be held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at Palmer Funeral Home—Hickey Chapel 17131 Cleveland Rd. Visitation will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., followed by a service honoring her memory. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park in South Bend. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Riley's Children's Hospital.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.palmerfuneralhomes.com



Donald T. Morrison

October 31, 1953 - May 8, 2025

Donald T. Morrison, 71, of Niles, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2025 at his residence .

Donnie was born on October 31, 1953 in Niles, MI to Woodrow and Lottie (Josephine) Morrison.

His lifetime companion was Harriet George who passed away in 2022.

Donnie enjoyed fishing and mowing his lawn. He liked to tinker with small motor repairs and was known to "keep the peace in the family."

Donnie will be lovingly remembered by his daughter Candy (Garrett) Sallee of Niles, MI and stepdaughter Christinia George (Jacob Phend) of Columbia City; grandchildren Vincent, Garrett (Cassie) Sallee, Emily (Austin Hirsch), Zoey, and Sophia Sallee, Chandler, Camie, Tesa, Lexis, Morgan, and Cassidy George, Cameron Phend; brother Jim Morrison; sister Helen (Jim) Britton of Niles, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in passing by both parents, his companion Harriet, and six brothers.

A Celebration of Donnie's life will be held at a later date.

To Sign the Guestbook or Send a Condolence to the family please visit

www.mchattonsadlerfuneralchapels.com

Jeffery Owen Wright

April 28, 1966 - May 7, 2025

Jeffery Owen Wright, 59, of Edwardsburg, died unexpectedly, May 7, 2025 after a short illness.

His life began April 28, 1966 in Dowagiac MI, the first of two children born to Owen and Sharon Wright. He married Laurie Johnson August 18, 2018 in Edwardsburg.

Jeff graduated from Edwardsburg High school in 1984, where he played football, soccer and wrestled. He then attended Butler University Indianapolis, as a pre-med student. Jeff worked for John Wright & Sons, his multi generation family's business, from the age of twelve. He started Ozinga in 2007, where worked as a concrete truck driver. In his younger years he enjoyed attending NASCAR races. Jeff loved sports, especially, Detroit Red Wings, University of Michigan and lately followed the Detroit Lions. He made Laurie and Jack pick a Big Ten Team to follow; together, they avidly followed basketball and football. Jeff started snowmobiling as a kid, and continued to enjoy it through the rest of his life. He was a die-hard Arctic Cat fanatic. He also enjoyed riding his quad and kayaking in Baldwin, Michigan. When he had the opportunity, he worked on his and Laurie's retirement project, their home in Wellston. Cooking was one of Jeff's favorite hobbies. He would often make food and take it over to his Ozinga brothers. In his words, food, cooking, and eating had always been at the top of his list.

Jeff will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Laurie Wright of Edwardsburg; step-son, Jack Nehl; father, Owen Wright of Edwardsburg; one sister, Stephanie Wright of Edwardsburg; two nephews, Ryan Wright and Stephan Wright, both of Edwardsburg. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sharon Wright.

Family and friends will gather Friday, May 16, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern time, with his service following at 6:00 p.m. Eastern time in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly

Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis, Michigan. The family requests casual attire.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Dalton Prentice

August 18, 1994 - May 11, 2025

Dalton Sebastion Prentice, 30, of Dowagiac, died

See OBITUARIES, Page A7

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

M	A	T		S	H	A	L	E		P	E	T
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SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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7	4	6	9	3	5	2	1	8
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4	8	3	7	1	6	9	5	2
9	6	5	3	2	8	1	7	4
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SMC graduates 15-member nursing class

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Southwestern Michigan College May 10 welcomed 15 new nurses to the workforce Saturday.

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College May 10 welcomed 15 new nurses to America's largest health care profession with approximately 4.3million registered nurses nationwide.

The federal government projects that more than 203,000 new positions will be created each year through 2031.

The median age is 46, with more than a quarter of RNs reporting that they plan to leave nursing or retire over the next five years.

SMC's spring class received associate degrees in nursing in a pinning ceremony in the theatre of the Dale A. Lyons Building on the Dowagiac campus. The class joins the ranks of 3,217 SMC nursing graduates.

Dr. Melissa Kennedy, dean of the School of Nursing and Health Services, addressed class members to "recognize your resilience, determination and courage. This is more than a ceremony, it's a milestone that marks the beginning of your journey as a nurse, as a leader and as a force. The path you chose is not easy. It's about more than knowledge. It takes heart, endurance and a sense of self that cannot be shaken by the voices around you — or even the voice within.

"It will be hard," Kennedy said. "There will be long nights, tough patients and impossible moments. In nursing and in life, there will be those who question your choices, your capabilities and your strengths. Let them. Then prove them wrong, not through argument, but through action.

"Let them doubt you, underestimate your intelligence, your toughness and your heart. Let them assume you'll break under pressure. Let them criticize from the sidelines while you show up day after day in the arena. Let them think you can't while quietly proving to them that you can. They do not define your worth. Their opinions do not shape your purpose and their limits are not your limits. Let you rise. You've already proven what you're made of, studying late nights, reading countless chapters. You've juggled families, jobs and your own fears, but you've shown resilience not just in textbooks and in clinicals, but in life."

"You didn't get here by accident," Kennedy said, "and you won't go forward by luck. Let them talk. Let you keep building. Let them walk away. Let you stand firm. Let them underestimate you. Let you rise anyway. Let them expect less. Let you do even more, not because you have anything to prove, but because that's who you are. Let them protect their limits. Let you define your own. Let them dismiss you. And let you surprise them with grace, grit and excellence. Let them say it's too hard. And let you prove to them that you were built to do hard things.

"Let them measure you by titles, by status or noise. And let you measure yourself by kindness, courage and impact. Let them go low. Let you go high and stay there. Let you walk into every patient's room, every emergency, every challenge knowing that you earned this, that you belong here. And when criticism comes from within and you doubt your worth, your ability or your path, let you be gentle, pause, breathe and keep going anyway. Let you be brave and do the work despite your fear.

"Your pin is not just a symbol of skill, but of unshakable resilience. Your strength is not loud or boastful. It's quiet, grounded and relentless. You are a healer, a protector and a fighter. Let them try to break you and watch you shine anyway," Kennedy said.

President Dr. Joe Odenwald said, "All of us are going to need health care at some point, coming into this world or going out. People in the community tell me all the time, 'I had good SMC nurses,' which is a reflection of our faculty.

"Both my grandmothers were nurses. My paternal grandmother grew up one of 13 children in rural Mississippi and went to nursing school for three years. She lived in the hospital on the top floor, went to school eight hours a day, worked as a tech eight hours a day and slept for eight hours. She spent time in surgery and long-term care in a 50-year nursing career, 1951-2001, the last 20 years in public health. She's still alive and will be 98 this summer."

Graduates include: Jenny Bupp, Dowagiac; Haley Harris, Buchanan; Saleena Hill, Dowagiac; Gwendolyn Jackson, Marcellus; Sandra Jenkins, Hartford; Autumn Johnson, Dowagiac; Elizabeth Little, Eau Claire; Karlie Mills, Niles; Amy Montgomery, Edwardsburg; Jessica Moshier, Paw Paw; Britney Peet, Eau Claire; Clarissa Phillips, Dowagiac; Samantha Rydwelski, Buchanan; McKenzie Talsma, Zeeland; and Brandon Villarreal, Dowagiac.

SMC's nursing faculty includes Chair Rona Goodrich, MSN, RN; Stacey Dwyer, MSN, RN; Rebecca Eichler-Toth, BSN, RN; Hazel Lim, MSN, RN; Haley Smith, MSN, RN; Yolanda Roche, MSN, FNP, RN; adjunct Molly Marquart, BSN, RN, CCRN; adjunct Allison Coleman, BSN, RN; and Erika Ervin, nursing success and retention coach.

Sandra Jenkins was presented the Lamp of Knowledge in recognition of the peer-selected Florence Nightingale Award embodying selflessness, compassion, thoughtfulness, team play, dependability, generosity and humility.

GRADUATES

Continued from page A4

in confidence, in skills and perspective."

"Michigan Reconnect, an incredible initiative, gave many of us a chance to earn a degree or certificate without the burden of debt," Smith said. "The space the staff created here is one of safety, community and opportunity," singling out two professors, Dr. Barbara Karwacinski and Jim Benak, and academic adviser Malisa Roberts.

"These three shining stars illuminated my path to graduation," Smith said. "College made me realize I want to fly. Literally. This coming fall I'll transfer to Western Michigan University to pursue a degree in aviation flight science with the goal of becoming a pilot. While the skies are where I'm headed, the ground I'm standing on right here at Southwestern Michigan College is where it all began for most of us. This degree is proof you've already overcome things which once seemed impossible. Continue to show up for yourself."

Smith graduated with an associate degree in business, balancing his classes with a full-time job.

Business Professor Jim Benak said, "Jake has approached each assignment with thoughtfulness and strong work ethic. His dedication to excellence, curiosity and enthusiasm for learning set him apart."

Smith and Marquis launched a new tradition for turning the mortarboard tassels.

Board of Trustees Chairman Tom Jerdon, a 1984 SMC graduate serving his 34th year on the board and his 11th year as chairman, introduced the speakers and fellow trustees Tracy Hertsel, Becky Moore, Dr. Elaine Foster, Skip Dyes and Todd Obren.

President Dr. Joe Odenwald recognized students graduating with all A's: Courtney Bily, Anna Brovont, Sashenka Cruz, Connie Grabemeyer, Mitzy Grana Diaz, Bo Janicki and Alex Schlee.

Of 365 awards, 67 were in Fall 2024, 191 are pending final Spring 2025 grades and 107 are pending final Spring 2025 and/or Summer 2025 grades.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

Sunday, May 11, 2025.

His life began August 18, 1994, in Niles the oldest of two born to Leslie and Jennifer Prentice. He married Mersadies Thar on July 2, 2016 in Buchanan. They have been married for eight years, but have been together for twelve years.

Dalton cherished spending time with his family, especially his wife and kids. He was an avid Notre Dame and Chicago Bears football fan. He enjoyed training his boys in the side yard of his home, hoping they would one day play football for Notre Dame. He played guitar and enjoyed riding dirt bikes in the yard with his brother, dad, and boys. The driveway was his favorite place to be. He could often be found working on his 1979 Bronco and enjoying time with family at a cookout. Dalton loved camping with his entire family, even if that meant in his yard.

Dalton will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of eight years, Mersadies Prentice; three sons, Ashton Prentice, Dawson Prentice, Hudson Prentice; parents, Leslie and Jennifer Prentice; one brother, Dylan (Sierra Jedlowski) Prentice; parents-in-law, Jacob II and Shauna Thar; brothers-in-law, Jon Thar, Tony (Becca) Thar; sister-in-law, Autumn Thar; grandparents, Denise Wolverton, Jacob and Marybeth Thar, Sheila Rigdon; nieces, Lucy, Paisley, Taylor, Olivia; nephews, Ben, Logan, Mattix, Jasper, Landon; uncles, Jamey Prentice, William Wolverton; aunts, Nina Prentice, Angel Prentice; and a host of cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Dave Ongley and his great grandparents, Robert and Carolyn Skinner.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Dalton will be laid to rest in Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Dalton be made to Mersadies Prentice, care of Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, 615 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan 49120, to assist the family.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Kathryn Louise Theobald-Brubaker

July 30, 1940 - April 29, 2025

Kathryn Louise Theobald-Brubaker, 84 was born and raised in Manilla, Indiana on July 30, 1940 to Lowell and Irene (Kuhn) Stiers. She was a farm girl raised on a beautiful Dairy Farm. Later in life she served as deacon of Zion in Shelbyville, Indiana. She worked at L.S. Ayres was an administrator for Blue Cross Blue Shield and Wishard Hospital. She worked at Sears Hardware until her mid-seventies. She moved to South Bend Indiana in 2018 to be closer to her daughter. Soon she met Don Brubaker after a "conversation starter" at South Bend Farmer's Market. They married 3 years later in December 2022. Along with being a great conversation starter she enjoyed a rich social life with friends. Kathy had a passion for dogs, cats, and back yard bird watching. Her love for chocolate, cookies and cats have been passed down quite well within the family. On April 29th, 2025 Kathy passed away in hospice care at Raclin House in Mishawaka. For 5 months she fought off illness after illness. Doctors, Nurses, Nurse Assistants, Dula, Chaplain and Volunteers made Kathryn's transition into the next beautiful life comforting and peaceful. Kathy will be greatly missed by her husband Donald Brubaker, Daughter Karen (Erik) Malling, Grandson Riley (Victoria) Malling, Granddaughter Kasha Malling, Great Granddaughter Evelyn Malling, Brother Richard (Janice) Stiers, Nieces: Angie Yeend, Kim Miller, Debra Sample, Robin Eder. Her Ex Thomas Theobald also survives. She was preceded in death by her parents Lowell and Irene Stiers, a Brother Kenny Stiers and (infant) Sister Janet Lynn Stiers.

A Memorial Service will be held at Zion on May 31st at 11am. Zion Community Church is located at 211 South Saint Peter Street in South Bend Indiana, across the street from Howard Park. In lieu of Flowers the family asks to donate to (All 4 Animals Rescue Inc.) 2300 W. 6th St. Mishawaka, IN 46544 or any shelter in your area. Elkhart Cremation Services has been entrusted with her care.

Edward Virgil

May 14, 1937 - February 28, 2025

Edward "Skip" Virgil, 87, of Southwestern Michigan, passed away in 2025. Born May 14, 1937, in Niles, Michigan, Skip was known for his infectious wit, humor, and love of storytelling. A lifelong reader and history enthusiast, he had a passion for Western novels, horses, Native American artifacts, and genealogy.

A visitation will be held Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, followed by a Celebration of Life at 5:30 p.m. Memories and photos may be shared on his memorial page.

Elaine Leidy

April 25, 1921 - May 5, 2025

Elaine Leidy, 104, of Washington, Indiana formerly of Niles, Michigan, passed away with family by her side on May 5th, 2025. She was born to the late Theodore and Hattie (Griechen) Fender in Niles, Michigan on April 25, 1921. She attended Niles High School and graduated in 1938. Elaine married the love of her life Fred Leidy on April 25, 1942. She proudly worked for many years as the head secretary for the Berrien County Courthouse. Elaine was a devoted member of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Niles and was known for being the sweetest and always having a smile on her face. In her early years, she and Fred enjoyed spending time with their friends, the "gang", flower gardening, spending time with family, and traveling to Sebring, Florida in the winter. In later years, Elaine loved watching the Lutheran channel every Sunday morning, crafting and was an avid bingo player. She will be deeply missed.

Elaine is preceded in death by her parents Theodore and Hattie Fender; husband Fred Leidy; son Fredric "Ric" (Sandy) Leidy; and brothers Richard and Eugene Fender.

She is survived by her daughter Sue Scherr; grandchildren Joseph Dutoi, Christopher (Julie) Dutoi, Jaime (Steven) Halter, Jeffery (Melissa) Leidy; 7 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous friends and extended family.

Goodwin-Sievers is honored to be entrusted with the care of Mrs. Leidy. Services will be held at a later date in Michigan.

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LMC receives national recognition for student voter engagement

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College has earned two national awards for its efforts to engage students in the 2024 election process.

LMC student Renato Recillas of Fennville has been named to the 2025 ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. This honor recognizes student leaders nationwide who excel in supporting their peers with voter registration, providing nonpartisan resources, and ensuring eligible college students can cast informed ballots.

Recillas, the only community college student from Michigan to receive this distinction, is among just 232 students nationwide to be included on the Honor Roll. During Fall 2024, he collaborated with LMC Political Science faculty member Dr. Tiffany Bohm to host various events and activities designed to educate students about the election process and foster civic engagement.

Additionally, LMC has been designated a 2025 Voter Friendly Campus by Fair Elections Center's Campus Vote Project and NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. This marks the fifth consecutive year the College has received this prestigious designation.

The Voter Friendly Campus initiative recognized 272 colleges and universities that implemented effective practices to encourage student participation in the political process and help eligible students overcome barriers to voting.

LMC earned this designation after rigorous evaluation of its written plan to register, educate, and mobilize student voters in 2024, its campus-wide voter engagement implementation, and final analysis of these efforts – all spearheaded by Dr. Bohm. As one of only 47 community colleges to receive this recognition, LMC stands out among institutions serving collectively over four million students across diverse two-year, four-year, public, private, rural, and urban campuses.

"Our goal is to provide Lake Michigan College students with nonpartisan support that opens the door to a lifetime of informed civic engagement and empowers them to have their voice heard," stated Dr. Bohm. "We are excited to have our work recognized through these awards and to see the results of our efforts through the active participation of our students in the voting process."

Summer Festival, BBQ Competition to return to Dowagiac

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce announced Monday that the Dowagiac Summer Festival and BBQ Competition is accepting registrations for the BBQ Competition as well as commercial vendors.

Events will take place July 18 and 19 in downtown Dowagiac. The annual two-day street festival will host food trucks, commercial vendors, in-store promotions, live music, children's amusement rides and activities featuring a pop up splash park on Commercial Street.

The second annual BBQ competition will take place Saturday, July 20 and is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society. Details regarding the competition and the registration can be found at dowagiacchamber.com, under events.

In conjunction with Dowagiac's Summer Festival, Southwestern Michigan College will host the 51st Annual Steve's Run, Friday June 18. Named the Original Road and Trail Race, the run will once again start and finish in Downtown Dowagiac, and take participants over paved roads, a golf course, a cemetery, and the Southwestern Michigan College wooded trails.

The race starts at 6 p.m. and registration can be found at www.swmc.edu under events.

POPE

Continued from page A1

"Our new Holy Father, the first American to be elected pope, is no stranger to the Diocese of Kalamazoo as he spent his high school years here in minor seminary."

Niles resident Angie Lundberg remembers his St. Mary's visit fondly as Leo XIV – "Father Bob" as he was often called at the time – baptized her three sons Stuart, Sawyer and Sam. Sawyer and Stuart have since graduated from Niles High School – Sawyer is a rising sophomore at the University of Michigan and Stuart is finishing up his junior year at Cornell – and Stuart is an eighth grader at Eastside Connections School.

"We were overwhelmed with joy and looking back now, it's an even more special moment and a treasured blessing," Lundberg said. "Our whole family will cherish it for the rest of our lives."

Rev. Robert A. Dowd, C.S.C., president of the University of Notre Dame, offered his prayers for Pope Leo XIV.

"The Notre Dame community joins with the Church worldwide in giving thanks and rejoicing in the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first American pope," Father Dowd said. "We celebrate his work as a tireless missionary who has never hesitated to cross borders to announce the Gospel. A leader of vision, humility and energy, he has inspired us with his compassion, generosity and love for the people of God. As he begins his pontificate, we pray that Pope Leo will always be blessed with the wisdom, courage and fortitude he will need."

DDA

Continued from page A1

"I want to thank the MEDC," Swem said. "$1 million sure helps a lot and we will make sure it is spent wisely. With the construction, the worst is yet to come, but bear with us."

McGhee told commissioners earlier this year that there would be a $1.5 million shortfall on the $19.4 million infrastructure project and the city has since agreed to borrow up to $2 million to make up for the shortfall and to do emergency paving work. The bulk of the $19.4 million is being paid for by grants and low-interest loans.

"The grant will either reduce the amount we need to borrow or, at the very least, provide additional funding to address any unforeseen issues that may arise during the next phase of the downtown project," McGhee said.

"It gives the city greater flexibility and strengthens our overall financing strategy, while also providing some breathing room to manage unexpected circumstances as the work progresses," he added.

The RAP grant will specifically be used to transform part of Front Street with widened sidewalks, new amenities and community branding. A new "living streets" concept that will be a centerpiece of the project and will focus on community engagement and flexibility in the use of public space.

McGhee noted in January that the streetscape part of the project will create a "festival street" on a section of Front with no curbs and the street and sidewalks being on the same level. He said Buchanan will be one of the first communities in the region to have that feature.

The commission's next meeting will be held a day later than normal on Tuesday, May 27 at 7 p.m. at City Hall due to the Memorial Day holiday.

PROJECTS

Continued from page A1

National Historic Preservation Month, was created by SHPO to celebrate outstanding historic preservation achievements that reflect a commitment to the preservation of Michigan's unique character and the many archaeological sites and historic places that represent our rich past. This year's event took place in Heritage Hall at the Michigan State Capitol.

"Each May, the State Historic Preservation Office is proud to recognize outstanding efforts to protect and celebrate Michigan's rich history through the Governor's Awards for Historic Preservation," said Ryan Schumaker, State Historic Preservation Officer. "This year's seven awardees reflect a deep commitment to preserving places that matter, not just for their architectural significance, but for the stories they tell about the people and communities that shaped our state. These projects help ensure that Michigan's history remains a source of pride, identity, and opportunity for generations to come."

Chapin Mansion

The City of Niles, Niles History Center and Mihm Enterprises were recognized for the Chapin Mansion Restoration.

Henry and Ruby Chapin built a highly decorative mansion in downtown Niles in 1884. The family later gifted the mansion to the city in 1932 to be used for civic purposes, and it became Niles' City Hall. When city offices moved out in 2012, it was time for the mansion's next chapter as part of the Niles History Center, the city's municipally operated museum. Since 2012, more than $1.5 million has been invested into the repair and rehabilitation of the historic features of the mansion property from a combination of state, local, and private sources. The Chapin Mansion today hosts annual events, programming, and school and adult tours showcasing regional history.

"Niles has demonstrated a commitment to the mansion and gone above and beyond in its care, making it a true gem in southwest Michigan," the State Historic Preservation Office stated in a news release.

Fort St. Joseph

Western Michigan University, the City of Niles, Niles History Center and Support the Fort, Inc. were recognized for the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Project.

Fort Saint Joseph was established by the French in 1691 on the banks of the St. Joseph River. For nearly 100 years, it was a hub of colonial activity that brought together settlers, soldiers, fur trappers, and nearby Potawatomi and Miami settlements. After the United States claimed the territory in 1781, the fort was abandoned and eventually lost to time. Starting in 1998, a partnership between Western Michigan University and the local community rediscovered the fort's location and helped inform the community about its past.

"This long-term collaboration today teaches aspiring archaeologists the field techniques needed for their future careers and shares what is found here through community events and a dynamic social media presence," the State Historic Preservation Office stated in a news release.

SEARCH

Continued from page A2

Brewer joined SMC and has served as Director of Enrollment Management, Community Outreach Coordinator, Director of Niles Campus, Associate Vice President for the Niles Campus, Chief of Staff, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Campus Life and Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives.

SMC pins Carew

In other business, Hertsel presented Director of Choral Activities David Carew of Buchanan with his 20-year service pin. He leads four ensembles, oversees applied voice instruction and teaches courses in aural skills and music history.

Carew previously taught middle and high school choral music in the Dowagiac and Edwardsburg school districts. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Western Michigan University (1998) and a master's degree in choral conducting from Michigan State University (2006). He founded and directs Chorllennium, a professional-level choral collective composed of experienced performers and area music educators.

Carew has sung with the St. Joseph Valley Camerata for 10 seasons, including a performance at the 2008 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Central Division Conference in Grand Rapids.

He is also the founding conductor of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Chorus, the principal choral ensemble for the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

Additionally, he has prepared choruses for the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, notably for a performance of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana during Maestro Tsung Yeh's final 2016 concert as artistic director. Since 2018, he has served as the Chancel Choir director at First United Methodist Church in Mishawaka.

Carew co-founded the Southwest Michigan Chorale with the Rev. James Kraus and serves as its principal conductor. This international touring ensemble has performed in Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Italy and France.

In addition to his work as a conductor and educator, he has appeared in numerous community theater productions with Beckwith Theatre, including Death of a Salesman, The Taming of the Shrew, Evita, Children of Eden, Forever Plaid, Little Shop of Horrors, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee and, most recently, The Outgoing Tide.

In his first report to the Board, Brewer noted that "Summer enrollment is tracking ahead of where we were at this time last year — 39 more students and up 4 percent in contact hours as of Monday. We still have some time to grow these numbers with classes beginning the first week in June. It will be about June 24 when we have a better sense of fall enrollment, but it looks promising."

Trustees also named SMC's very first student, Dr. Bruce Watson, to the foundation board, accepted three gifts to the college totaling $300 and acknowledged 28 donations to the SMC Foundation totaling $13,971.

The annual budget hearing was scheduled in conjunction with the next board meeting, which will take place June 11.

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ABUSE

Continued from page A4

circumstances, I will sentence at the bottom of the guidelines," he said.

Nathaniel Joseph Hamel, 35, pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery as a habitual offender and was sentenced to 48 months to 22.5 years in prison with credit for 133 days served and $258 in fines and costs.

Hamel

The incident occurred Dec. 12, 2023 at the Niles Wal-Mart. He also is facing charges in Indiana. According to statements made in court, Hamel was using a pellet gun to stop the person who was trying to stop him from stealing items from the store.

Briseno said that Hamel's life took a significant downward spiral in 2023 resulting in him and his family ending up homeless. She said that he was stealing items in this incident to have money to pay for a place to stay.

Niles Daily Star
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
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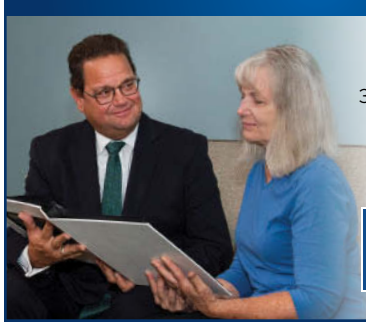

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SOFTBALL

Dowagiac sweeps Berrien Springs to win Lakeland

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The Dowagiac softball team took care of business against Berrien Springs Tuesday night and made history in the process.

The Chieftains swept the Shamrocks 10-0 and 23-0 [three innings] to earn the Lakeland Conference Championship, the team's first conference title since 2007.

"I've told the girls all year long that our first goal this year was to be conference champs," said Dowagiac Coach Mike Behnke. "We haven't done it since 2007. We've had a lot of second places back in the Wolverine and even in Lakeland now and I feel good for them. They're the ones who have worked hard since they were nine years old, and now they're starting to reap the rewards of all the work they put in over the years."

"It feels great," added Dowagiac junior Marlie Carpenter. "That was our number one goal this year. We've been working really hard at practice and you can tell out on the field. We're all together and we've been playing very well this year."

Claire Hess had three hits and two RBI in game one and Marlie Carpenter added two hits and two RBI while Bree Behnke and Bree Campbell each had one hit and two RBI. Campbell struck out 13 batters and gave up just one hit in game one to pick up the win.

Berrien Springs' Olivia Spenner struck out four and gave up eight hits and seven earned runs in the loss.

"We really just came out here knowing that this was a big game for us," Carpenter said. "We knew it's not going to be an easy game

See WIN, Page B2

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TENNIS

Edwardsburg girls tennis wins first-ever Wolverine Conference title

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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The Edwardsburg girls tennis team captured the Wolverine Conference Championship Monday evening.

No. 1 doubles pair Abby Pryor and Mya Eberlein went undefeated in conference and were named the No. 1 doubles champions. Brailey Fowler and Kadence Yowell were the No. 4 doubles champions and Verona Moody was named the No. 3 Singles Champion. Coach Kim Bartz was named the 2025 Wolverine Conference Tennis Coach of the Year.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SOCCER

Second-half charge falls short for Niles girls' soccer team

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

THREE RIVERS — With the regular season winding down this week, Niles girls soccer coach Jaycee Myer is looking for her Vikings to build momentum for the postseason.

Coming off Monday's 2-1 non-league win at Niles Brandywine, Niles, now 4-11-2, came into Tuesday's road match in Three Rivers looking to maintain that intensity.

Despite a great second-half effort, the Vikings eventually fell 3-1 to the Wildcats at Armstrong Stadium. The match did not count in the Wolverine Conference standings since the two schools had already met earlier this Spring. That contest ended in a 2-2 tie.

"We fell short tonight,

See SOCCER, Page B2

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Niles junior Amity Riggenbach (16) beats Serela Cruz (7) from Three Rivers to the ball along the sideline.

WRESTLING

SMC BREAKS GROUND ON ZOLLAR EXPANSION

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College celebrated four years of athletic success with a groundbreaking ceremony for the wrestling expansion to the Charles O. Zollar Building.

"Since the board voted unanimously to revive intercollegiate athletics after a hiatus of more than 25 years, SMC wrestling in particular has had success nothing short of amazing," Chief Marketing Officer Mike O'Brien said. "In 2022-23, their first year back, the team swept the MCCAA duals meet, won the conference championship, finished third in the Great Lakes District and sent nine wrestlers to the NJCAA National Championships.

"In the spirit of continuous improvement, in their second year the team moved up to Division I, again swept the MCCAA duals, won their second conference title, finished second in the Great Lakes District and sent the maximum 10 wrestlers to nationals, where they finished 17th in the country. Sophomore Caeleb Ishmael was honored as an All-American.

"This past season we improved even further," O'Brien said. "The Roadrunners remain undefeated in MCCAA duals. They three-repeated the conference title, traveled to Illinois and beat three nationally-ranked teams in winning the Great Lakes District over perennial powerhouse Triton College. They again sent 10 wrestlers to nationals and finished 14th in the country — three steps higher than the previous year. Sophomores Nathan Andrina and Colby Klinger were on the podium as All-Americans. Coach Todd Hesson was named the National Wrestling Coaches of America's National NJCAA Coach of the Year."

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
A new 11,195-square-foot wing of the Zollar Building will quadruple the space available to the men's and women's wrestling teams.

The Zollar upgrade will quadruple the space from 2,688 square feet in temporary quarters in the Dale A. Lyons Building to 11,195 square feet.

"It will double our mat capacity," O'Brien said, "and add a dedicated fitness and warmup area. It will create offices for the wrestling coaches, add locker rooms for student athletes and expand restroom facilities for everyone who visits 1st Source Bank Fieldhouse for volleyball and basketball games."

"SMC is taking the lead for the whole state of Michigan," O'Brien said, "committing to be the first MCCAA junior college to offer women's wrestling starting this fall. Only 30 two-year colleges in the country offer women's wrestling. Both our men's and women's wrestling teams will have a brand-new home to practice in by February 2026."

Interim President Brent Brewer thanked architect Tony Leininger and his team at Carmi Design Group in Niles and Douglas and Tyler Shelton of E&L Construction Group in Kalamazoo.

"They are the general contractors not only on this project, but also the additions to our residence halls that will provide 36 more on-campus spaces for students to live."

As a "wrestling dad" whose son, Brody, wrestles for Dowagiac and travel teams, Brewer said, "We have traveled all over the state and country to various tournaments. Early mornings, late nights and time away from home, but we love it!"

See SMC, Page B2

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Local officials, athletes and students gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony for the wrestling expansion to the Charles O. Zollar Building.

SOCCER

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Johannah McDonald.

McDonald breaks Dowagiac's overall scoring record

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Johannah McDonald continued her siege on Dowagiac Union High School's record books this week.

The junior tallied eight goals in the Chieftains' 9-1 win over Brandywine Tuesday. McDonald's eight goals brings her season total to 42 goals, breaking the school's overall record of 40 goals set by former boys soccer standout Steve Mazimpaka in 1996. On May 2, she broke the girls' soccer record of 33 goals set by former Chieftains standout Breanna Williams, who held the school record since 2012.

Jimena Sanchez Ortega added one goal for Dowagiac (9-6-1) and Maya Hernandez had two assists and Brianna Garcia, Alivia Bell and Riley O'Konski each added an assist. Avery Bright scored Brandywine's (3-11-1) goal.

"The girls played a very good game today," said Dowagiac coach Joe Pasternak. "We moved the ball and didn't try to force anything down the middle. We did a great job of taking the space that they gave us and finding the open lanes. We moved a lot of positions around today and everyone adapted well and it didn't change the way we played. Overall it was a great team win."

SMC

Continued from page B1

"It's gratifying for me to see SMC taking a leadership position in college wrestling," Brewer said. "This is just the latest step to expanding opportunities for our students all over campus. In 2022, we completely remodeled the gymnasium for the return of intercollegiate athletics. Since last summer, we have added more affordable housing for students who want to live and learn here.

"This Zollar expansion for wrestling is the first phase of our Room to Grow campaign, which speaks to the whole college experience. Every piece of the whole is important because not all learning takes place in the classroom."

"At SMC we will always be committed to providing opportunities to motivated men and women to grow to be their best by participating in clubs, on teams and in band or ensembles. Room to Grow will provide better space for our wrestling program, but also for music students, with plans to renovate the choir and band rooms and the commons area of the Dale A. Lyons Building."

Board of Trustees Chairman Tom Jerdon said, "All of this activity helps fulfill a critical part of our mission, providing the total college life experience. It's critical to provide online classes for students who prefer that, and SMC has some great online options. But we also invest in physical spaces and robust programs that foster growth and life experiences second to none — home games and musical performances benefit our students as well as the community. You cannot profess to have a total college life experience without thriving arts and athletic programs."

"I assure you," Jerdon said, "we always take on these projects in a manner that is financially responsible to taxpayers. This wrestling project is being built after extensive value engineering by SMC administration and the Carmi Design Group. We're doing it the old-fashioned way, with funds we've already saved over time and no burden of additional debt to our taxpayers.

SMC "generates positive impact in Cass County of over $58 million and over $224 million per year if you include surrounding counties," Jerdon said. "We are an economic engine for this area. Soon, we'll be able to put in bids to host conference and regional wrestling meets for both men and women."

WIN

Continued from page B1

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

and we have to work very hard. The bats were a little bit slow at the beginning but once we got rolling we were good to go."

In game two, the Chieftains scored nine runs in the first inning and seven in the third and fourth innings. Addison Wilson and Carpenter each had a home run, with Wilson having three RBI and Carpenter four. Hess had one hit and three RBI and Charleigh Reed, Olivia McIntosh, Behnke, Campbell and Henry each tallying one hit and two RBI. Rebecca Guernsey totaled two hits.

Wilson picked up the win on the mound with two strikeouts and one hit. Brianna Wolf picked up the loss for the Shamrocks with one strikeout, 13 earned runs and five hits in one inning. Laila Jackson gave up eight earned runs and six hits in two innings while striking out one batter.

"At the plate, we made adjustments," Behnke said. "Their first pitcher actually does pretty well. She's got a little bit of spin and located it pretty good. We just made small adjustments to get better pitches. In the second game, we worked on staying back and letting the ball come to us instead of chasing the ball and getting way out in front of it. Defensively, that's what we did and then with our pitching, both Bree and then Addie in the second game pitched well, threw strikes, and we played good defense behind them."

The Chieftains are now 24-2 on the season and winners of eight straight.

"Each day, we celebrate the wins," she said. "We take it day by day. We're not looking ahead, we're just looking at the next day and the next thing to come and we're just overcoming the tasks. It's been challenging but the hard work's been paying off."

While proud of the team's achievements thus far, Behnke and Carpenter are aiming for more. They will face a good test this weekend in Edwardsburg and Vicksburg – two teams in their postseason district – at the Gull Lake Tournament.

"It's gonna take great pitching, timely hitting and great defense because those are the two 'Burgs," Behnke said. "Those are two quality softball programs and they've won a lot of districts and regionals. Vicksburg's been to the state championship the last two years. We've got to put it all together. We're on to our next goal to be district champs, now."

"We just need to keep it up at practice and keep working on the basics," Carpenter said. "It really comes down to the little things and what you show on the field, not getting down on yourself and just picking each other up and staying confident in the field."

SOCCER

Continued from page B1

but this is what we've kind've been working towards. Our kids continue to fight and focus on playing as a team rather than as individuals but its coming together. We're getting ready for the Vandenberg Tournament Saturday then districts next week," Myer said.

Three Rivers built a 2-0 lead after the first 40 minutes, getting goals from its star senior tandem of forward Tori Thorbjornsen (10:35) and midfielder Paige McDonald (5:28).

The Wildcats increased its advantage to 3-0 on Natalie McGahan's penalty kick at 39:06 of the second half.

McGahan was credited with two assists and McDonald added one helper for Three Rivers, now 8-6-3.

Junior Analia Olivares scored the lone goal for Niles at 32:09 in the final half off an assist from classmate Maria Villafana.

The outcome was a bit disappointing given the fact that the Vikings held a 16-6 advantage in shots on goal.

Niles goal keeper Haili Martz recorded four saves in goal.

"Our goal keeper does a great job of keeping the ball in front of her. I also thought Amity Riggenbach stepped up tonight to play our centerback position and we moved our striker Morgan Hopper into the middle and she brought intensity, along with Nyla Hover for us in the second half. I'm very proud of every one of our girls," Myer said.

"Our plan coming into this match was to communicate well. We had a couple defensive breakdowns, but other than that I think they did a great job," Myer said.

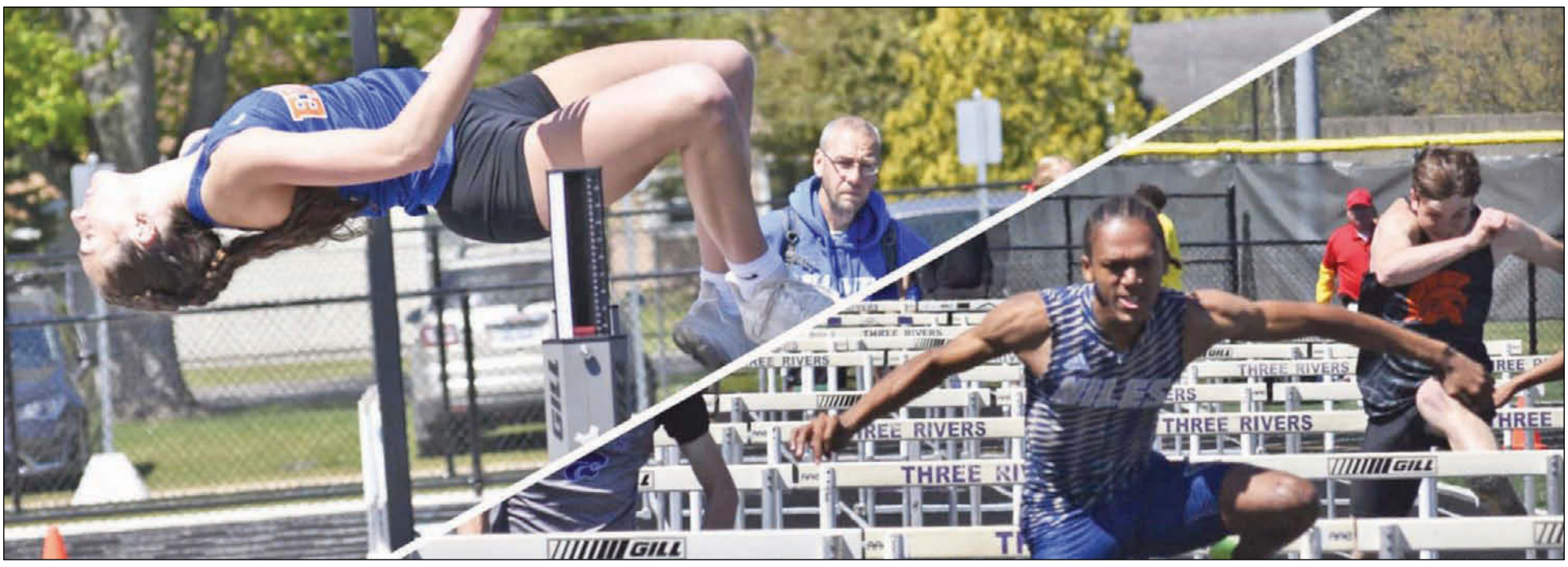
Three Rivers' netminder Rebekah Beachey made 15 saves.

Wildcats' head coach Travis Shubnell, who recently recorded his 100th win at Three Rivers, praised the play of Niles afterwards as well as his own squad.

"We knew this was going to be a competitive game. Our kids have some speed, especially up front. Niles battled and had some chances. This match was much closer than they score indicates," Shubnell said.

Niles turns its attention to Saturday's Vandenberg Tournament. The Vikings then visit Paw Paw on Thursday, May 22 in its Division 2 district opener at 6 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD



SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TOP: Edwardsburg junior high jumper Sarah Pippin clears the high jump bar at 5-7 on her way to winning the Wolverine Conference title Friday at Three Rivers. BOTTOM: Niles senior hurdler Ayden McCarey clears the final hurdle on his way to winning the boys' 110-meter high hurdles.

Edwardsburg's Pippin, Niles Mccarey shine in conference meet

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

THREE RIVERS — With regionals coming up next week, area high school track and field athletes entered the May 9 Wolverine Conference championship meet in Three Rivers looking to achieve peak performances.

Several individuals came away satisfied with the results of those efforts.

Three Rivers, 7-0 in league duals, was crowned overall boys' champion after totaling 149 1/2 points to win Friday's meet. Otsego (117) grabbed second followed by Plainwell (94 1/2), Niles (82 1/2) was fourth, Sturgis (58 1/2) fifth, Paw Paw (54) finished sixth, Edwardsburg (54) seventh and Vicksburg (50) was eighth.

Niles got three first-place finishes in the boys' meet from senior hurdler Ayden McCarey. McCarey earned titles in the 110-meter high hurdles (14.78) and 300 hurdles (39.88), along with a win in the 400 (51.62).

McCarey's time in the 300 hurdles is now the fatest time in the state this season in Division 2.

McCarey also teamed with Andre Wells, Lucas Debortoli and Ben Bruckner to earn third place (3:32.55) in the 1600-meter relay, while Edwardsburg's quartet of Fredrik Sante, Cole Claire, Jaden Gregory and George Scupham were sixth (3:44.95).

Bruckner placed third in the 100 (11.29) and the Vikings' Peyton Gordon snatched fifth (11.56).

Gregory grabbed third in the 800 (2:04.26) and Scupham claimed fifth (2:06.61).

Scupham also earned fifth in the 1600 (4:32.36).

The Eddies' Maquire Johnson earned fourth (10:08.04) in the 3200.

Niles grabbed second in the 400 relay (43.70) with Sam Rucker, Bruckner, Andre Wells and Gordon, while the Eddies were sixth (46.12) with Gio Orue, Chase Karkiewicz, Loehn Luckett and Drew Nelson.

"I'm really super proud of my long jumpers and two of those kids got personal bests. Our relay teams performed extremely well. But with no doubt the star for us in this meet was Ayden McCarey. Not only did he win the 110 highs, but we went back-to-back by winning the 400 and 300 hurdles with only 15 minutes rest. That's never been done before in the history of the Wolverine Conference. He's the best athlete I've ever had here. I never thought he could pull this off and I'm super proud of him. He listens to all of our coaches and goes above and beyond of what he's asked," said Niles boys' head coach Tony Todd.

Sante, Claire and Gregory joined Chance Jacobs to earn fifth (1:36.34) for the Eddies, while Niles was eighth (1:39.84) with Vaughn Asmus, Zach Zietlow, Gunner Sherer and Alex Anderson.

Gregory, Leith, Johnson and Scupham placed third in the 3200 relay (8:28.71).

The Vikings placed two in the shot put with Bryce Young earning sixth (43-2 1/4) and Jordan Cunningham taking seventh (42-5 1/2).

Cunningham also earned eighth (125-7 1/2) in discus.

In the high jump, Zach Overmyer from Edwardsburg claimed second (6-4) and Jesten Gregory was eighth (5-6).

Lucas Frenz of Edwardsburg won pole vault (13-0) with a personal-best, while Liam Beckman of Niles finished seventh (10-6).

"We finally got some really good weather today and had some great performances. Several of our kids reached their personal bests. Now we are looking forward to regionals next week with us all in the best shape," said Edwardsburg boys' coach Lito Ramirez.

The Eddies were missing its best 400 runner in Mobias Stubblefield who was attending another school activity on the academic side. Stubblefield has already automatically qualified for state in that event after meeting the pre-qualification time.

Niles dominated the long jump with three placers. Bruckner finished second (21-7) followed by Jaden Ivery in third (20-5) and Andre Wells tied for seventh (19-7).

Sturgis won the girls' meet and overall league title after compiling 185 points. Otsego (125) claimed second followed by Plainwell (89.83), Edwardsburg (80 1/2), Paw Paw (67 1/3), Vicksburg (52 1/3), Niles (30) and Three Rivers (28).

Edwardsburg junior Sarah Pippin broke her own school record with a first-place effort of 5-7 in the high jump, while Niles freshman Loryana Harris took fourth (4-11).

Pippin broke her own mark of 5-6 from earlier this Spring.

"Sarah is a natural and Georgia is a real strong distance runner for us. We had good performances today by our relays. Now we're hoping to get as many people to state as we can," said Edwardsburg girls' coach Morgan O'Grady.

Edwardsburg's Madelyn Peat took fourth in pole vault (8-6).

Sarina Mora from Edwardsburg tied for third in long jump with a personal-best effort (15-7), while Niles' Bree Lake earned fifth (15-4).

"Bree just started long jumping for us and she placed fourth. She's a good all-around athlete. Izabel is poised and she should qualify for state in two of her events," said Niles girls' coach Rikki Jones. "I'm proud of all of our kids today."

In the middle-distance races, Edwardsburg's Kennedy Goorhouse finished fourth (1:03.47) in the 400-meter dash and teammate Alex Ferguson fifth (1:04.99).

Georgia Babcock from Edwardsburg was league champion in the 800 (2:23.55) and the Eddies' Layla Gableman finished sixth (2:33.57).

Babcock also earned second in the 1600 (5:15.80) and teammate Jade Leith ran a personal-best for eighth (5:59.16).

Niles senior Izabel finished league runners-up in the 100 hurdles (16.22) and Morin placed seventh (17.68).

Hoskin and Lake combined with Kylie Conn and Nariyah Jones to finish second (52.40) in the 400 relay for Niles. Edwardsburg's quartet of Annika VanBuren, Piper Bryant, Cassidy Frentz and Caliana Manfred earned third (53.13).

VanBuren, Bryant and Manfred joined Goorhouse on the second-place (1:52.0) 800 relay.

Bryant, Goorhouse, Frentz and Babcock swiped second (4:16.43) in the 1600 relay.

Edwardsburg finished sixth (11:56.24) in the 3200 relay with Leith, Liyah Worthington, Ferguson and Gableman.

Three Rivers' Lamonta Stone was named the Male Most Outstanding Male performer, while Sturgis' Keyanna O'Tey, a University of Michigan committ, received the same honor for her standout performances in the girls' meet.

Three Rivers' boys mentor Jason Muckel and Sturgis' girls coach Lesley Starkey earned Coach of the Year honors.

FOOTBALL

Notre Dame announces game times for 2025 home games

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame Football has announced game times and broadcast information for its 2025 home slate, including three primetime matchups against Texas A&M, USC and Navy.

The Irish will host seven opponents in Notre Dame Stadium in 2025. Six of those contests will be broadcast on NBC (simulstreamed on Peacock), while the Oct. 11 game vs. NC State will be broadcast exclusively on Peacock.

2025 will mark the first time Notre Dame has hosted three night games since 2018.

Notre Dame's home opener will bring Texas A&M to Notre Dame Stadium on Sept. 13, the fulfillment of a home-and-home series that began to open the 2024 season in College Station, a 23-14 Notre Dame win. The game will kick off at 7:30 p.m. ET on NBC.

Notre Dame will remain at home the next week to face rival Purdue at 3:30 p.m. ET on NBC. The last meeting with the Boilermakers occurred in 2024, a 66-7 Irish victory. It will mark the second-consecutive season in which the Irish have faced Purdue in Game 3 of the season to battle for the Shillelagh Trophy. The Irish – Boilermakers series began in 1896 and is the third-most prolific in Notre Dame history with 88 meetings, trailing just Navy (97) and USC (95). Notre Dame holds a 60-26-2 advantage in the series.

On Oct. 4, the Irish will return home for a three-game stint in South Bend, beginning with another first-time opponent, Boise State. Kickoff is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. ET on NBC. Dating back to the 2013 season, the Irish are 6-1 in first-time meetings with opponents in Notre Dame Stadium,

The Irish will face NC State in Notre Dame Stadium on Oct. 11 at 3:30 p.m., broadcast exclusively on Peacock. It marks the fifth Notre Dame game that will be streamed exclusively on Peacock. The Irish are 4-0 when playing exclusively on Peacock.

Notre Dame will then host USC in the annual Jeweled Shillelagh rivalry game, this season occurring on Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. ET on NBC. The matchup will mark the 96th meeting between Notre Dame and USC. The Irish are 7-2 over the Trojans in the last nine meetings.

On Nov. 8, Notre Dame will come back home for the annual matchup with Navy. This installment of the famed rivalry, in which each team owns half of the Rip Miller Trophy, will kick off at 7:30 p.m. ET on NBC. It will mark the first time Notre Dame and Navy have met in a night game at Notre Dame Stadium.

The 2025 Notre Dame home slate will conclude with a 3:30 p.m. matchup vs. Syracuse on Senior Day, broadcast on NBC.

Fans interested in becoming Season Ticket Members can click here for more information, or contact the Murnane Family Ticket Office at tickets@nd.edu or (574) 631-7356. Single game tickets will go on sale on Thursday, May 29 at 6pm ET.

FOOTBALL

Notre Dame leads all FBS institutions with 17 perfect NCAA APR scores

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The University of Notre Dame led the way among Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools and matched its institutional record with 17 perfect scores in the latest release of Academic Progress Rating (APR) statistics from the NCAA.

The Irish ranked ahead of Atlantic Coast Conference institution Duke (16) and the Big Ten's Michigan (13) among FBS schools. Boston College, Clemson and Northwestern each also posted 10 perfect APR scores.

Notre Dame baseball, women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's fencing, men's and women's golf, men's swimming and diving, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's track and field, women's soccer, softball, women's tennis and volleyball were the 17 Irish programs with a perfect 1,000 APR score.

Among the football programs that participated in the 2024-25 College Football Playoff, Notre Dame (990) joined Ohio State (1000) and Clemson (995) in posting an APR of 990 or higher.

Notre Dame's 17 programs with scores of 1,000 marked the 10th time in the 19-year history of the APR in which at least 13 Irish teams had scored perfectly (also in 2006, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).

Notre Dame's number of perfect scores has ranked either first or second among all FBS programs for 19 consecutive years. Notre Dame led FBS schools in 1,000 scores in 2024, 2023, 2021, 2020 and 2019 (both years tied with Stanford at 13), 2016 (with 16), 2015 (17), 2013 and 2012 (both with 12), 2009 (with nine), 2008 (with eight, tied with Duke) and 2006 (with 14, tied with Boston College).

Notre Dame finished second in the number of 1,000 scores in 2022, 2018, 2017, 2014, 2011, 2010 and 2007.

The APR, created to provide more of a real-time measurement of academic success than graduation rates offer, is a team-based metric where scholarship student-athletes earn one point each term for remaining eligible and one point for staying in school or graduating. Schools that don't offer scholarships track their recruited student-athletes.

Every Division I sports team submits data to have its Academic Progress Rate calculated each academic year. The NCAA reports both single-year rates and four-year rates, on which penalties for poor academic performance are based. National aggregates are based on all teams with usable, member-provided data. APRs for each team, lists of teams receiving public recognition and those receiving sanctions are available online through the NCAA's searchable database.

2024 University of Notre Dame APR Ratings by Sport

Baseball — 1000
Men's Basketball – 975
Women's Basketball – 1000
Men's Cross Country – 1000
Women's Cross Country – 1000
Men's Fencing – 1000
Women's Fencing – 1000
Football – 990
Men's Golf – 1000
Women's Golf – 1000
Hockey – 997
Men's Lacrosse – 1000
Women's Lacrosse – 1000
Rowing – 996
Men's Soccer – 984
Women's Soccer – 1000
Diving – 1000
Men's Swimming and Diving – 1000
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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

ONTWA TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY MICHIGAN
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PLATTED LOT SPLIT ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE NO.2025-5-12.1
SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE

Please take note that at its regular meeting held on Monday, May 13, 2025, the Ontwa Township Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance 2025-5-12.1 titled the "Ontwa Township Platted Lot Split Ordinance. The following is a summer of the ordinance and its regulatory effect.
Section 1. Title – This section contains the title of the new ordinance.
Section 2. Purpose and Enabling Authority – This section sets forth the purpose of the new ordinance and that it is enacted pursuant to the Land Division Act and Township Ordinances Act.
Section 3. Definitions – This section provides definitions for various terms used in the ordinance.
Section 4. Lot Split Authority and Approval Criteria – This section sets forth the circumstances in which the dividing or partitioning of a platted lot may be approved.
Section 5. Platted Lot Split Application Procedures. This section sets forth the application procedures for an individual wishing to split a platted lot under this ordinance.
Section 6. Prohibited Actions. This section provides actions related to lot splits, building, and recording that are prohibited by this ordinance.
Section 7. Application Fees. This section enables the for the collection of application fees for applications submitted pursuant to this ordinance.
Section 8. Violations and Sanctions. This section establishes penalties for violations. Failure to comply with this ordinance constitutes a municipal civil infraction.
Section 9. Severability. This section states that this ordinance is severable.
Section 10. Repeal. This section repeals any ordinances in conflict with this ordinance.
Section 11. Effective Date. This section sets an effective date of 30 days after publication of this notice.
A copy of this Ordinance is available to be reviewed, obtained, inspected, or purchased in its entirety at the Ontwa Township Hall, 22625 US 12, Edwardsburg, Michigan, during regular business hours. It can also be viewed on the Township website, www.ontwatwp.org.

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after publication.

Niles Daily Star:
May 17, 2025
2025-5-12.1

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2025
Applications Now Open for Berrien County Farmland Preservation Program

Berrien County, MI — Farm owners in Bainbridge, Chikaming, Lincoln, Royalton, and Sodus Townships are invited to apply for the Berrien County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program, now accepting applications through August 22, 2025
The PDR Program, administered by the Berrien County Community Development Department, is designed to protect agricultural land through applying for state funding to purchase development rights from willing farmland owners. The goal is to preserve the agricultural heritage and scenic landscapes of Berrien County, ensuring the long-term viability of commercial farming.
Applications and program details are available at www.berriencounty.org under the Community Development Department's Farmland Preservation section.
Participation in the program requires a minimum 25% cash match. This match can be contributed by the landowner or through other local funding sources or private donations.
Completed applications must be submitted to the applicant's local municipality by **August 22, 2025**, for review and consideration.

Contact:
Katie Montoya
Berrien County Community Development
Phone: 269-983-7111 x8257
Website:www.berriencounty.org

Niles Daily Star: May 17, 2025
APPLICATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET

Please take notice that on June 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. the Board of Education of Niles Community Schools will hold a special board meeting to have a public hearing to consider the district's proposed 2025-26 budget.
The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-26 budget until after the public hearing.
A copy of the proposed 2025-26 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Business Office beginning June 2, 2025.
The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of the hearing.
This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Niles Daily Star:
May 17, 2025
HEARING/BUDGET

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 31, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
21	Cecilia Dunifin
56	Nathan Thomas
94	Joshua Thompson
109	Raymond Greathouse
116	Melisa Kaeding
127/633	Chris Norris
145/468	Michael Merritt
148	Gloster Johnson
183	Cindy Fisher
184/66	Mary Anderson
192	Patricia Yoder
195	Daniel Beushauser
205	Nancy Bombrys
224	Ricole Haas
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
331	Valerie Outlaw
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
352/355	Andre Ahlers
356	Chase Molica
368	Erin Weed
386	Shannon Lego
389	Parnell Jenkins
395	Joe Nicodemus
399	Les Hart
410/534	Rebecca Coleman
427	McCade Reese
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
459	Jethrow Kyles
480	Lori Kennedy
486	Leigh Anne Norris
530	Justin Landis
541	Nicole Hurt
557	Michelle Richter
576	Joseph Auing
605	Michael Lewark
638	Britney Stanczyk
661/665	Rodney Prescott
677/567	Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 31, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

3	Bruce Walls
49	Miranda Wendzel
57	Nathan Haynes

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday May 31, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

97	Blake King
126A	John Daniel
146A	David Pointer
170A	Mellisa Visel
284A	Bethany Snyder
133	Nick Loper
168	Jerol Williams Jr.
227	Jennifer Nichols
238/466	James Diss
250	Robert Clayton/Jessica Vissik
263	Tamara Holmes
292	The Woodshed Crafts
323	Dan Armel
325/336	Wiliam Cole Jr.
327	Robert Davis
355	Carson Bowlin
367	Jackie Libertowski
373	Rhonda Sue Outlaw
426	James Schilling Jr.
452	Aaron Smith

Niles Daily Star:
May 17 and 24, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

Do you have available jobs?
Call 269-591-6105 to let others know about job opportunities at your business.

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY

$1000 OFF*
OR
$1500 OFF when financing with remodelingloans.com** OR **0% Interest** For 18 Months**
OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/2025
BATH CONCEPTS INC
CALL NOW (844) 945-1631
*Includes labor and product; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 3/31/25. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify/Participating dealers only. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS OF
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
CASE NO. U-21673

- Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission's approval to commence an Energy Waste Reduction plan cost reconciliation proceeding for the period January 2024 through December 2024.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Indiana Michigan Power Company, Benton Harbor Service Center, 2425 Meadowbrook Rd., Benton Harbor, MI 49022, (800) 311-6424 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the documents at the offices of Indiana Michigan Power Company or on the Commission's website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/.
- A pre-hearing will be held:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 9:30 AM

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Lesley C. Fairrow

LOCATION: Video/Teleconference

PARTICIPATION: Any interested person may participate. Persons needing any assistance to participate or who are seeking access to the video/teleconference should contact the Administrative Law Judge's secretary at (517) 284-8130 or by email at LARA-MOAHR-PSC@michigan.gov in advance of the hearing.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider Indiana Michigan Power Company's (I&M) May 1, 2025 application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve that the Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) costs, as proposed by I&M, were reasonably and prudently incurred; 2) authorize I&M's requested rate adjustment associated with the actual 2024 EWR program costs and carrying charges, resulting in a cumulative over-recovery balance of $218,923 (including carrying charges), as of December 31, 2024; 3) approve I&M's proposal to collect a Financial Incentive of $962,484; 4) approve I&M's total EWR revenue requirement in the amount of $812,201; 5) approve I&M's reconciliation for the 2024 EWR Plan year and the associated update to I&M's EWR tariff rates; 6) approve as reasonable and prudent the revised reconciliation component rates for I&M's EWR Surcharge Rider as proposed by I&M's effective for bills rendered with the first billing cycle of January 2026 or the first billing month following a Commission order, whichever is later; and 7) grant I&M other and additional relief as the Commission may deem reasonable and appropriate.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: https://mi-psc.my.site.com/s/. Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by May 29, 2025. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Indiana Michigan Power Company's attorney, Theresa A.G. Staley, 201 Townsend St., Ste. 900, Lansing, MI 48933.

The prehearing is scheduled to be held remotely by video conference or teleconference. Persons filing a petition to intervene will be advised of the process for participating in the hearing.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of their wish to make a statement of position. Mich Admin Code, R 792.10413 (Rule 413).

Any person wishing to file a public comment may do so by filing a written statement in this docket. The written statement may be mailed or emailed and should reference Case No. U-21673. Statements may be emailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. Statements may be mailed to: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information, thus available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Executive Secretary at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq., and Parts 1 & 4 of the Administrative Hearing Rules of the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Mich. Admin Code, R 792.10106(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7); R 792.10121; and R 792.10401 through R 792.10448.

U-21673

INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER
An AEP Company
BOUNDLESS ENERGY

DEALS ON WHEELS

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ON THE SPOT FINANCING

Selling Fast!
Buy Now
Before Prices go Higher

2015 CHEVY CRUZ LTZ
Just in!!
Fully serviced with every option

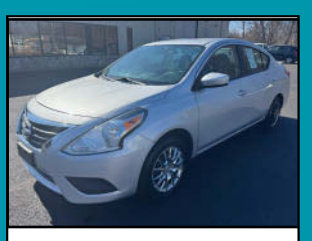
Only $5,900

2014 CHEVY SONIC LT
Fully service and ready to go

Only $5,900

CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE
Extremely rare, low miles

Only $9,900



2019 NISSAN VERSA
Just in!!
35mpg, fully serviced and ready to go

Only $9,900

2016 KIA SOUL
Only 62,000 miles, save thousands on this low miler

Only $11,900

2018 KIA RIO HATCHBACK
Just in!!
Only 53,000 miles

Only $12,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows

Only $13,900

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
Get you mini-van for the mini-mum

Only $13,900

2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate

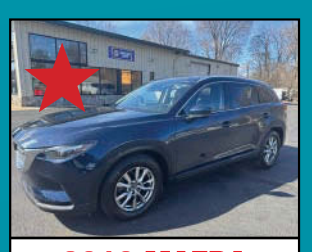
Only $15,900

INFINITY Q56 PLATINUM 4 X 4
Just in!! Mint condition for only

Only $16,900

2021 KIA SOUL
Just in!!
Save Save Save

Only $17,900



2018 MAZDA CX9 AWD
Just in!!
Save thousands

Only $17,900

2019 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
A bird flew over this one and we heard it say cheap cheap cheap!

Only $17,900

1999 FORD F-250 CLUB CAB XLT
This is a one owner in mint condition with low miles and very sought after 7.3 diesel

Only $19,900

2022 CHRYSLER VOYAGER
Like new with full power options

Only $21,900

2022 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS AWD
Off lease, one owner, super low miles, 7 passenger with every option

Only $22,900

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!

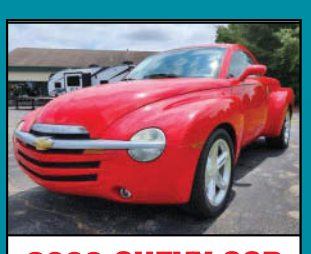
Only $23,900

2018 FORD TRANSIT HIGHROOF
Like new with low miles

Only $24,900

2019 HYUNDAI KONA IRONMAN
Extremely rare. Only 1 of 500. Will be a collector's item

Only $24,900



2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK,
SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles

Only $29,900

2020 NISSAN ARMADA 4 X 4
Big ol rig!!

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2020 BUICK ENCLAVE AVENIR AWD
Every option, over $60k new. Half price!!

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Just in!! Only 46,000 miles with the Coyote V-8!!

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2024 CHEVY EQUINOX RS AWD
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8,000 miles
with every option!!

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2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab,
long box
Diesel, Low miles

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2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!

Only $39,900

2022 TOYOTA TACOMA BEAST
OFF LEASE,
one owner with
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2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!

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2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4
Every option,
super condition.
Get ready for winter now

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2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal

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